

## **A Blended Learning Design to Improve Non-Music Major Students' Knowledge of Chinese Traditional Music in Hunan Agriculture University**

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### **Abstract**

This study is a quasi-experiment research. The aims of the study are to determine if the blended Chinese Traditional Music Appreciation Course using Superstar Learning Application improves the Chinese traditional music knowledge of non-music majors and to explore the students' opinions towards the use of Superstar Learning Application as a teaching and learning tool in a blended Chinese Traditional Music Appreciation Course. The research site is at Hunan Agriculture University, China, involving freshmen students taking the Chinese Traditional Music Appreciation Course. The study used a mixed methodology design. The Pre-test and post-test were administered to determine the effectiveness of the blended learning course. An in-depth interview was also conducted to explore the opinions of volunteer participants about the blended Chinese Traditional Music Appreciation Course and the application used. Comparison of the pre-test and post-test scores showed that the Chinese traditional music knowledge of non-music major students improved after learning in the blended Chinese Traditional Music Course. Students who volunteered to be interviewed showed positive opinions towards the blended learning course and the Superstar Learning Application as a teaching and learning tool.

Keywords :blended learning, Chinese traditional music, superstar application, e-learning, music appreciation

### **Introduction**

The Chinese government gives immense importance to the inheritance of traditional culture. Recently, the General Office of the State Council in China issued the *Opinions on Comprehensively Strengthening and Improving the Work of Aesthetic Education in Schools in the New Era*. It emphasizes that universities should set up public art course, which portrays the development of Chinese traditional culture and the education of art classics as the main contents. Given this mandate, universities in China have to teach Chinese Traditional Music Appreciation Course to Chinese college students; this is an effective way for Chinese students to inherit the Chinese culture.

For the past decades, teaching music in China has continuously been valued from primary school to college. Music appreciation courses have long been a staple in university courses. It is an important part of music curriculum. However, there are some deficiencies in current